The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club Inc.

Est. 1917
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George R. Isely, W9GIG
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Dear Mr. Isley,

On behalf of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club (MRAC), I would like to wish you congratulations on your election as ARRL Central Division Director. Not wanting to bad mouth Mr. Metzger, but many of us in the Southeastern Wisconsin area have felt for some time that we really did not have a director. We are glad to see someone new in position and hope things change or at least become more active (maybe see your name in the board meeting minutes).

Allow me to tell you something about MRAC. The club was formed in 1917 making us one of a handful of the oldest radio clubs in the world. As opposed to other organizations, the club did not go dormant during either world war. We continued to hold meetings and publish newsletters. We affiliated with ARRL in 1919. We meet monthly with an average attendance of about 40. MRAC is one of 14 VEC in the US. At this time we are conducting tests ourselves, but in the past have had other groups working through us (though of course not on the scale of ARRL or W5YI). Over the years we have conducted license classes many times (the first time in 1922). Most recently we had a continuous run from 1976 - 1996 running at least 1 Novice/Tech each year (with many years having General and Advanced and Extra classes too). We have recently returned to classes with the first tech class this past November. We publish a regular newsletter (currently every 6 weeks) both on paper and electronically. If you would like we can add you to our email distribution.

I would like to also take this opportunity to offer a word of praise for Don Michalski, our SM. He has been doing a good job, being very visible and approachable in the area including appearing at a number of local events (even one of our club meetings). We send him our newsletter and he even reads it and takes news items from it for his QST column.

We welcome any comments you may have for the club and area hams regarding your new post as Director. We will read them at a club meeting and publish them in our newsletter. Of course you are welcome to attend any club meeting (we do understand you can not possibly attend every club meeting in the division). If you were to attend a meeting, we would like to adequately publicize the event to be sure we would have maximum attendance.

By the way, if you would like to appear in the area and meet a good portion of the local ham community, Friday and Saturday April 6 and 7 is an annual function called Superfest which takes place at Amateur Electronic Supply here in Milwaukee (but you may already know about this). AES opens up the back of the store and all the major manufacturers come in and set up booths (just like a hamfest without the flea market). Most area clubs also have booths/tables set up (we will, besides conducting testing). ARES will have their Emergency Communications van set up and operating.

The members of the club look forward to hearing from you in some form.

73,

David B. DeFebo WB9BWP
President
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club Inc.